



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 July 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- Reuters reports that a moderate earthquake spared Los Angeles oil refineries, pipelines, nuclear plants, and the city's electrical grid on Tuesday, but caused some minor local power outages. (See item [1](#))
- According to the Associated Press, in a report aimed at the next president, security specialists are proposing a vast overhaul of the U.S. security system, declaring it problem-plagued. (See item [35](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. **July 29, Reuters** – (California) **Earthquake spares L.A. energy facilities.** A moderate earthquake spared Los Angeles oil refineries, pipelines, nuclear plants, and the city's electrical grid on Tuesday, but caused some minor local power outages. The biggest impact to energy flows came as Kinder Morgan shut a refined products pipeline for pressure testing, but a spokesman said there was no sign of any leaks or damage following the 5.4-magnitude quake. "The good news at this point is that there is no indication of any damage," a Kinder Morgan spokesman said. Southern California Edison reported an undetermined number of power outages in the area of Chino Hills, near the center of the earthquake. "The grid is in good shape," said a spokesman for the California Independent System Operator. "There is no impact that we can see at this

point.” Valero Energy Corp., Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil, Tesoro, and BP all said their refineries had not been damaged by the quake. Both the San Onofre nuclear generating station, between Los Angeles and San Diego, and the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, northeast of Los Angeles, were operating normally, utility officials said. A spokesman for Pacific Gas and Electric Co.’s California Gas Transmission system said personnel at the company’s Hinkley compressor station in southern California felt the quake, but there was no damage or effect on operations. The spokesman said the Hinkley facility was likely the company’s closest facility to the epicenter of the quake. The Department of Transportation’s pipeline safety office said it reached out to the state and all the operators there and that none of them had reported back with any problems. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSN29363161>

2. *July 29, Galveston County Daily News* – (Texas) **News photographer detained at oil spill.** Police on Monday detained a Daily News photographer who refused to show officers his photographs of refinery workers attempting to mitigate a 500-gallon crude oil spill. The 45-minute detention and police inquiries were over whether the photographs contained images harmful to national security. A corporal of the Texas City Police Department, who is also the city’s contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Joint Terrorism Task Force, said the police department’s policy is to detain anyone photographing the city’s chemical plants. Police then review photos to see if they pose any threat but do not confiscate cameras or photographs. “There’s no law that says you can’t take pictures from a public roadway, but the issue becomes: Are any of the shots compromising security measures?” he said. The Daily News photographer said he took all but nine of his 36 photos of the oil leak on Marathon Oil Co. property while standing near 14th Street at Eighth Avenue. The remainder he shot a couple feet within an unsecured grassy field, he said. The field, a vacant lot next to the intersection, is owned by Marathon, and when a Marathon security guard asked the photographer to leave the field, the photographer said he immediately complied. The field had no signage and provided a slightly different vantage point of refinery crews than did the street, the photographer said. A spokeswoman for the FBI’s Houston office said it is not against the law to photograph the refinery from a public street, but police ask to see pictures because they want to be sure nothing of a sensitive nature is published. “Since 9/11, there have been so many threats to refineries that it’s become standard practice,” she said. “Usually, people cooperate once they understand. He could have inadvertently taken security features that mean nothing to you and I, but those looking to do harm to a refinery would value them.” An Austin attorney and volunteer with the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas advised The Daily News to turn over the photographs only under court order. Source: <http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=09720bbae271bf79&-session=TheDailyNews:42F9412811ccc00AA0WWM125C0ED>
3. *July 29, Platts* – (Louisiana) **Entergy New Orleans customer base rises near pre-Katrina levels.** The rebuilding of Entergy New Orleans’ service territory continues, with the utility’s electric-customer base at 75 percent and its natural gas-customer base at 61 percent of pre-Hurricane Katrina levels. The utility served about 190,000 electric customers and 147,000 gas customers in Orleans Parish before the storm hit in August

2005. This month, the total had risen to 141,000 electric and 88,000 gas customers. By October 2006, electric and gas customers stood at 85,000 and 55,000, respectively. The utility also said that its returning power customers are, on average, about 20 percent more energy efficient than they had been before the storm hit in August 2005. Citing a newly completed GCR & Associates study, Entergy New Orleans attributes the change to more energy-efficient building codes, rebuilding with more efficient materials, and the upgrade of appliances that were destroyed in the storm.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6929342.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *July 30, Reuters* – (Alabama) **Southern Ala. Farley 1 reactor exits outage.** Southern Company's Unit 1 at the Farley nuclear power station exited an outage and ramped up to 30 percent power by early Wednesday, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in a report. The unit shut by July 22 due to the loss of two emergency diesel generators that would be used in the event of an off-site power outage.

Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUKN3043038020080730>

5. *July 29, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (National) **NRC solicits public input into how it can increase public access to security information.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking suggestions from the public on how it can increase its level of openness related to security at nuclear power plants and certain other facilities while still protecting sensitive information. A summary of the feedback will be posted on the NRC's Web site, provided to the Commission, and considered in the development of new openness policies. Comments will be accepted until September 12.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-140.html>

6. *July 29, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Minnesota) **Offsite notification due to a sodium hypochlorite spill.** On July 28, Xcel Energy notified the State of Minnesota's duty officer of a 53 gallon 12 percent sodium hypochlorite spill at the Prairie Island plant. The spill was due to a leak in the chemical piping. The release was stopped but only partially contained within the berms of the building. Some of the sodium hypochlorite seeped through the berms' concrete walls and into the environment. The amount escaping the containment berm was less than the reportable quantity but was

being reported since a portion did reach the soil.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080729en.html>

7. *July 29, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Missouri) **NRC proposes \$6,500 fine against Missouri company for violations of NRC requirements.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has proposed a \$6,500 fine against American Radiolabeled Chemicals Inc. (ARC), located in St. Louis, Missouri, for failure to comply with NRC regulations in the areas of radiation protection, nuclear materials security, and management oversight. The NRC identified multiple examples of the company's failure to adhere to NRC regulations during a January 2008 inspection conducted at ARC. In February of this year, the NRC issued a confirmatory action letter documenting how the company planned to address the observations and findings developed during the inspection. The NRC conducted a follow-up inspection in March 2008 which revealed violations of agency regulations in the same areas of concern again. The NRC identified four violations of NRC regulations that included failure to (1) ensure radioactive materials were properly secured and controlled; (2) comply with license commitments related to management oversight of the radiation protection program; (3) conduct radiological surveys; and (4) perform and document investigations of contamination found in controlled and unrestricted areas. The NRC notified the company of the violations and proposed fine on July 22, 2008. The company has 30 days to either pay the fine or contest it.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-029.iii.html>

8. *July 28, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Michigan) **Positive random fitness for duty test.** A non-licensed employee supervisor at the Cook nuclear power plant had a confirmed positive for alcohol during a random fitness-for-duty test. The employee's access to the plant has been terminated.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080728en.html>

9. *July 28, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Alabama) **Cable tray fire near cooling tower "C" switchgear.** Security notified Limestone County sheriff's dispatch that the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant had experienced a fire and arc-over event near a cooling tower switchgear. On July 27, a fault occurred in the cable tray between the supply transformer and the cooling tower switchgear, resulting in a fire. The fire was extinguished by on-site responders. The Limestone County sheriff department was contacted by site security and informed of the event and asked to increase patrols in the area of the county road adjacent to Browns Ferry. Limestone County Sheriff was contacted again and informed that the problem was operational and that their assistance was not required.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2008/20080728en.html>

Defense Industrial Base Sector

10. *July 30, Military & Aerospace Electronics* – (National) **General Dynamics to deliver digital modular radios for U.S. Navy Ships.** General Dynamics C4 Systems, a business unit of General Dynamics, won a \$23 million contract for AN/USC-61(C) Digital Modular Radios (DMRs), the Navy's standard communications system for newly constructed ships and submarines. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in mid-2009 and continue through 2010. The software-defined DMRs communicate with Ultra-High Frequency SATCOM, Single-Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems (SINCGARS), Line of Sight, and high-frequency radios on Navy surface and subsurface platforms. "By replacing what used to be racks of radios and encryption equipment, one DMR radio represents considerable savings in size, weight, and power to the Navy," said the vice president of Assured Communications for General Dynamics C4 Systems. "The expertise we've gained from executing on the DMR program is particularly relevant now as we work with Lockheed Martin in the development of the Airborne and Maritime/Fixed Station component of the Joint Tactical Radio System."

Source:

http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ONEWS&PUBLICATION_ID=32&ARTICLE_ID=335684&C=ONEWS&dcmp=rss

11. *July 29, San Diego Union-Tribune* – (National) **First Littoral Combat Ship begins sea trials.** Freedom, the Navy's first Littoral Combat Ship, began sea trials Monday on Lake Michigan in preparation for its eventual move to San Diego. The 378-foot vessel will undergo testing of its propulsion, communications, navigation, and mission systems. The work is being handled by a crew of Navy sailors and workers from Lockheed Martin, which designed the ship, said a spokesman for the Naval Surface Forces command in San Diego. Freedom is one of two prototypes for a new class of Navy ship designed for coastal, mine-warfare, and antisubmarine missions. The second prototype, the Independence, is being built by General Dynamics. Both ships have been plagued by cost overruns and design delays. Each is expected to cost more than twice the \$220 million originally budgeted. After the Navy takes delivery of the two ships late this year or in early 2009 it will conduct more testing in San Diego. The service will then choose one design as the prototype for the fleet of 55 Littoral Combat Ships it plans to purchase.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/military/20080729-1604-bn29littoral.html>

12. *July 28, Army News Service* – (National) **Mechanical arm attaches to vehicles for IED clearance.** An improvised explosive device (IED) Interrogation Arm for the RG-31 and Husky vehicles has been developed by the Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate (NV&ESD), part of the Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command. The NV&ESD team leader said there are several vehicles currently used for route clearance missions, including the Buffalo Mine Protected Vehicle. But, he said, demand for the Buffalo is very high. In collaboration with the team at NV&ESD, discussions began for a new technology that could help teams interrogate IEDs and be quickly developed and fielded. The new arm, which was initially fielded in Iraq in May

2007 and Afghanistan in July 2007, is designed as an independent component. It is able to be attached to existing vehicles already in theater. Additionally, the arm is lightweight, easily mounted and repaired, easy to use and significantly less expensive than the Buffalo, he said.

Source: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2008/07/28/11272-mechanical-arm-attaches-to-vehicles-for-ied-clearance/>

13. *July 28, Air Force Print News* – (National) **386th ELRS tests new Humvee modification.** The 386th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron's vehicle maintenance section is testing two new modifications for the M1116 up-armored high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles' (Humvee) condenser, hoping the improvement will eventually become standard in all M1116 Humvees throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The recent modifications were created in response to a growing problem with the original manufacturer setup and the primary usage of the vehicle in Southwest Asia. "There hasn't been a day we haven't had at least two Humvees in the shop," said a vehicle management and analysis noncommissioned officer. "We've accumulated just more than 100 man hours during the past few weeks on Humvee air-conditioning systems, and spent more than \$4,500 in parts." To prevent having to order new condensers because of irreparable damage, the modification involves placing a rubber inner tube between the assembly and sheet metal, in order to help the assembly absorb some of the vibration. Additionally, he constructed a special L-shaped bracket that holds the condenser and fan assembly tighter to the frame. The modifications consist of two brace configurations: one which bolts down on top of the assembly and another which bolts on the side. For the test phase, the vehicle maintenance section also configured one of the copper tubes most likely to break with a piece of flexible tubing, in order to make it less prone to snapping if the assembly shifts. Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123108219>

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Banking and Finance Sector

14. *July 30, Daily Local* – (Pennsylvania) **Phishing scam hits area banks.** First National Bank of Chester County, Pennsylvania, said Tuesday it has been a victim of a phishing scam. On Monday afternoon and Tuesday, fraudulent e-mails, telephone calls, and cell phone calls were sent to customers and non-customers by phishing scammers, according to the bank. The bogus e-mailed messages and telephone calls describe an urgent reason why customers must "verify" or "re-submit" personal or confidential information by clicking on a link embedded in the e-mail message or by calling a telephone number. These fraudulent e-mails calls have been designed to look as if they come from First National and contain the First National logo, the bank said. The scammers are believed to be located in a foreign country and First National Bank is working with law enforcement authorities to discover the identity of those involved in the scam, said the executive vice president at the bank. The bank is also working with law enforcement agencies to have the unauthorized communications and fraudulent Web sites terminated. First National Bank immediately began notifying customers via e-mail of the scams and informing them not to respond to requests for information.

Source:

http://www.dailylocal.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=19877959&BRD=1671&PAG=461&dept_id=635398&rft=6

15. *July 30, CCH Wall Street* – (National) **SEC halts \$20M scam.** At the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's request, a California federal court has frozen the assets of an investment advisor who allegedly stole \$20 million from more than 200 clients. According to the regulator, starting in at least 2000 and continuing well into 2008, the suspect solicited money from hundreds of investors by purporting to be an investment expert capable of generating outrageously large returns with absolutely no risk. But instead, he spent their money on lavish personal expenses. And in classic Ponzi scheme-fashion, he often transferred money from new clients to favored clients in order to create the illusion of profitable trading.

Source: <http://www1.cchwallstreet.com/ws-portal/content/news/container.jsp?fn=07-30-08>

16. *July 29, Better Business Bureau of Northern Indiana* – (Indiana) **BBB of Northern Indiana warns of scam.** The Better Business Bureau of Northern Indiana and the Indiana Bankers Association (IBA) are reporting recent phishing scams in the northern Indiana area. Callers posing as representatives from the State of Indiana or the Department of Financial Institutions have been contacting individuals asking for personal information, including bank account numbers, allegedly to ensure that deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. These calls are fraudulent. Automated calls claiming to represent banks call individuals and allege that their debit cards have been canceled. The recorded message tells recipients to call a phone number, where they are asked to provide card numbers, expiration dates, and PINs. These calls are fraudulent. These scams appear to be targeted to specific geographic areas.

Source: <http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=30693>

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Transportation Sector

17. *July 30, CNN and Telegraph.co* – (California) **Tougher codes kept quake damage down.** A California earthquake knocked out a ground radar system at Los Angeles International Airport, but that did not interfere with operations, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. Tiles fell from the ceiling in one terminal as water flowed from a burst pipe. Officials at Los Angeles International Airport said that after initial inspections, operations were running as normal and that no flight schedules had been affected.

Sources: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/07/30/earthquake.ca/index.html> and <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/2473899/Los-Angeles-escapes-earthquake-relatively-unsathed.html>

18. *July 30, ASAP News* – (International; National) **Visa free visitors to U.S. can soon register online.** Europeans and other visitors to the U.S. who enter the country visa-free will be able to start registering online next month for a new security screening that will

become mandatory by January, according to Homeland Security officials. The new online security screening will replace the paper forms that currently must be completed by visitors to the U.S. entering from the 27 countries that are part of the visa waiver program. The new requirement will not apply to land border crossings, where the paper forms will continue to be used. The screening program, called the Electronic System of Travel Authorization (ESTA), “will help to modernize our pen and ink system and bring it into the 21st century,” said a spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “All travelers including children of all ages must have an approved ESTA beginning Jan. 12.” Users of the online system will not be charged a fee, and the registration will cover trips to the U.S. for a two year period, or until the visitor’s passport expires, if the expiration occurs within that two year period.

Source: <http://www.asap.co.uk/news/visa-free-visitors-to-us-can-soon-register-online-5633301.html>

19. *July 30, WKBT 8 La Crosse* – (Minnesota) **Train derails south of Brownsville.** A train derailment in Houston County, Minnesota, leaves 10-15 rail cars in the water, one leaking ethanol. The Houston County Sheriff’s Department says the train derailed about one mile from the city of Reno, which is south of Brownsville on Highway 26. As a precaution, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has closed Highway 26 from Brownsville to New Albin, Iowa, indefinitely until the scene is deemed safe. MnDOT says the section of highway will be closed until at least 1:45 p.m. Wednesday. Sheriff’s officials say no one was injured in the derailment. An official from the MnDOT says one car is leaking ethanol, but the spill is mostly contained. Crews are waiting for a HazMat team from the Twin Cities to respond to the scene. Residents of the area are not at risk, though the spill would have been handled differently had the spill been in a populated area, according to MnDOT. A Department of Public Safety spokesman says the derailment could be related to the failure of a wooden bridge. It is not clear if the privately owned bridge collapsed under the train, or if derailed cars took it out. He told the Associated Press the derailed train is owned by the Iowa, Chicago & Eastern (IC&E) Railroad, and the same company owns the bridge. An IC&E spokesman says 27 cars derailed Tuesday morning. There were no injuries. The company says the cause of the derailment is under investigation.

Source: http://www.wkbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=8752027&nav=menu239_12_8_5

20. *July 29, Evansville Courier & Press* – (Illinois) **Police looking for vandals who caused Wayne City, Ill., train derailment.** Authorities are seeking help from the public in identifying the people who released the brakes on a loaded grain car in downtown Wayne City, Illinois, on Monday morning, sending it down a side track where it derailed. A Wayne City police chief said the vandals released the hopper car’s brakes between 11 p.m. Sunday and 5:30 a.m. Monday. “The car hit a derail switch that alerted railroad dispatchers,” he said. “Had that switch not worked properly, there could have been a collision with the next freight train.” Officials with the Norfolk Southern Railway were in Wayne City on Monday afternoon investigating the incident. A large crane was brought in to set the toppled car, which was filled with milo, back onto the tracks. Six freight trains on the line, which runs from St. Louis to Louisville, Kentucky, were halted for hours until repairs could be made.

Source: <http://www.courierpress.com/news/2008/jul/29/police-looking-vandals-who-caused-wayne-city-ill-t/>

21. *July 29, Associated Press* – (New York) **Plane with blown tire lands safely at NYC airport.** A Delta Air Lines plane carrying 167 people safely made an emergency landing at John F. Kennedy International Airport Tuesday evening, hours after it blew out a tire on takeoff from the Queens airport, authorities said. The flight, which was bound for Salt Lake City, circled Kennedy for several hours to burn off fuel, then dumped extra fuel over a nearby body of water before landing, said a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which oversees the airport. Passengers were taken by bus back to a terminal. A spokeswoman for Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc. said there were no injuries. She said maintenance workers would inspect the plane, a Boeing 737-800, and passengers would be rebooked on other flights. She said the tires are checked regularly but that she did not know when they were last replaced.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gsafa3fKoUM8WFcjsPIKxPXIzVnAD927S2K00>

22. *July 29, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* – (National) **Boeing sets goals for safer tank system.** The Boeing Co. said Tuesday that it expects to have the first fuel-inerting system on production models of the 777 later this year, and on production 747s a few months later, in 2009. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) earlier this month, in the face of years of protests by industry that such action was too expensive and unnecessary, issued its long-awaited final rule that mandates airlines reduce the potential of a fuel tank explosion, which brought down a TWA 747 off the New York coast in 1996. All new jetliners must have such technology within two years. And within 10 years, large jets made after 1992 must be retrofitted with technology to reduce the potential of a center wing tank explosion. Boeing began installing the Honeywell system on each new 737 at its Renton plant last month. As fuel is burned off in flight, the system pumps inert nitrogen-enriched air into the tank to lower the oxygen concentration and prevent the buildup of potentially explosive fuel vapors. The FAA rule covers both Boeing and Airbus planes, but requires only that technology be used to reduce the risk of a center fuel tank explosion. The safety board had urged the FAA to require that the wing tanks, not just the center tank, have inerting systems.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/business/372736_air30.html

23. *July 29, Associated Press* – (International) **3,000 blank British passports stolen with delivery van.** Around 3,000 blank British passports due to be sent to embassies around the world have been stolen from a van that was hijacked near Manchester, England, in what the government admits was a major security breach. The Foreign Office admitted that 24 parcels containing blank passports and vignettes – the stickers used for visa stamps – were taken from a vehicle that was traveling from the printers Monday. Security experts have suggested that the cargo, which has a street value of almost \$10 million, was probably targeted deliberately. A Foreign Office spokeswoman admitted it was a serious breach of security and that the Home Office and Identity and Passport Service had taken “preventative action” to guard against the stolen passports being forged and used to commit fraud. The passports involved were the new electronic

variety, which contain a chip replicating the data printed on the document itself. Security industry specialists, however, suggest that the documents could be forged and used to commit crime even though the information on the chip would not match the rest of the forged document.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,393581,00.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

24. *July 30, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **White powder creates a scare at office building.** In Missouri, an envelope containing a white, powdery substance evacuated a South County office building Tuesday morning while federal and local officials investigated. Tests done in Jefferson City later determined that the substance was not dangerous, authorities said, but they did not immediately reveal what the substance was. The suspicious substance was found by a worker who opened an envelope that came in the mail to the First National Bank. The Mehlville Fire Department, St. Louis County police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the St. Louis County Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team came to the scene to investigate.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/laworder/story/3DA13D17F3913A9086257496000A7599?OpenDocument>

25. *July 29, Staten Island Advance* – (New York) **Big response closes Bay Street, but substance with letter is just cornstarch.** On July 29, someone found an envelope filled with a suspicious powder at the 120th Precinct's St. George stationhouse. The emergency response arrived, shut down Bay Street, and "decontaminated" 11 people, in case the mystery substance proved hazardous. In this case, the white powder turned out to be cornstarch, authorities said.

Source:

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/07/updatebig_response_closes_bay.html

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Agriculture and Food Sector

26. *July 30, Canadian Press* – (International) **Top EU negotiator blasts U.S. as countries grapple with WTO talks failure.** The United States, Europe, and other commercial powers grappled Wednesday with the magnitude of their failure to reach a new global trade pact, and traded blame for the collapse of seven years of talks. A day after a nine-day World Trade Organization summit ended without agreement, the European Union's top negotiator said he had tried to broker a deal on the farm import issue that ultimately divided the United States and developing countries led by China and India. According to the U.S., problems arose over Europe's defensiveness to opening up farm markets to imports of beef, poultry, sugar, and other products. Agricultural imports are especially sensitive in France, where the president has regularly pointed the finger at the European Union for conceding too much to competitors in the developing world. The talks hit a

snag over an obscure “safeguard” for protecting agricultural producers in the developing world from a sudden surge in imports or drop in commodity prices. While such safeguards currently exist in rich and poor countries, they are rarely used and reflect only a minute portion of the billions of dollars in manufacturing, farm and services gains the WTO’s Doha trade round was supposed to create.

Source:

<http://canadianpress.google.com/article/ALeqM5jtxZGSv4vClSd2HrAT4FAzmvnnLQ>

27. *July 30, USAgNet* – (International) **U.S. beef arrives in South Korea.** For the first time in five years, U.S. beef with bones has arrived in South Korea. The 1.5 ton shipment includes ribs along with other cuts with and without bones. The import of U.S. beef is the first shipment since April, when South Korea agreed to lift the ban on U.S. beef imports. The import of boneless U.S. beef has been limited in recent years due to the discovery of some bones in shipments. The response to U.S. beef is still in question as protesters that number in the tens of thousands are demanding that U.S. beef not be imported due to fear of mad-cow disease. Prior to the mad-cow scare in 2003, South Korea imported \$850 million of U.S. beef annually.

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.php?Id=1773&yr=2008>

28. *July 30, New York Times* – (National) **U.S. won’t release land in conservation program.** Amid improving harvest expectations for this year, the United States agriculture secretary said Tuesday that he would not lift penalties for farmers who plant crops on land set aside for conservation. Bakers and livestock owners had mounted an intense lobbying effort to erase the penalties in order to increase the harvest and lower high crop prices. The pressure intensified in June after floods washed away farm fields in the Midwest, leading to fears of a poor harvest. The ruling was a major victory for conservationists and hunting groups, who had argued that lifting the penalties would have gutted the Conservation Reserve Program, which pays farmers not to cultivate marginal land. Currently, 34.7 million acres are enrolled in the program, much of it in the Great Plains. Under the terms of the program, farmers sign contracts for up to a decade or more. Farmers who terminate the contract must reimburse the government, with interest and a 25 percent penalty on the total rent payments they received.

Source:

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/30/business/30conserve.html?_r=1&ref=business&oref=slogin

29. *July 29, U.S. Department of Agriculture* – (International) **USDA allows dragon fruit from Vietnam under streamlined process.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is advising the public of its decision to begin issuing permits for the importation into the continental United States of dragon fruit from Vietnam. Based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, APHIS believes that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of dragon fruit from Vietnam.

Source:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/notices/content/2008/07/dragonfruit.shtml>

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Water Sector

30. *July 30, Hartford Courant* – (Connecticut) **Portland working to rid water system of bacteria.** In Portland, Connecticut, local officials and the town engineer met Tuesday with an engineering consultant specializing in water systems to discuss how to correct the ongoing problem of the presence of total coliform bacteria in the town's water system. They were scheduled to review test results taken Monday, which showed the bacteria were still present in the system, with the state Department of Public Health Wednesday. The bacteria were first detected in tests performed July 21 and 23. Total coliform bacteria, which are naturally present in the environment, are generally considered harmless, but indicate that potentially harmful bacteria may be present. The water has been tested for fecal coliform bacteria, including E. coli, and those results are still negative, said the director of the Chatham Health District, which includes Portland. Portland officials are working with state and local health departments, as well as the Metropolitan District Commission, which provides the town with some of its water, to rectify the situation.
Source: <http://www.courant.com/community/news/mr/hc-porwater0730.artjul30,0,5028135.story>
31. *July 28, Fond du Lac Reporter* – (Wisconsin) **Nearly half of local private wells tested are unsafe.** Since the extensive flooding experienced in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, in June, private wells are continuing to test positive for water contamination. Of 545 water samples tested, 41 percent have tested unsafe or positive for coliform, according to the Fond du Lac County Health Department. Another 11 percent also tested positive for E. coli. Fond du Lac County is applying for a Community Development Block Grant Emergency Assistance Program, which may provide financial assistance to low- and moderate-income residents for flood repairs, including well repair.
Source: <http://www.fdlreporter.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080728/FON0101/807280380/1985/FONnews>
32. *July 28, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* – (Wisconsin) **Cameras to be installed at MMSD plants.** Additional cameras will be installed at the Jones Island and South Shore sewage treatment plants to boost perimeter security and view steps in the treatment process, as part of a \$944,000 contract approved Monday by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) commission. Pieper Electric Inc. of Milwaukee will install 22 new cameras at Jones Island and 12 new cameras at South Shore, as well as a central camera monitoring network for each plant, by March 31, 2009, under the contract. MMSD received a \$120,000 grant from the federal Homeland Security Grant Program to help pay costs of the project.

Source:

[http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2444834&title=BRIEF
Cameras to Be.html](http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2444834&title=BRIEF_Cameras_to_Be.html)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

33. *July 28, Canadian Press* – (International) **Dead birds found at equestrian site tested for bird flu.** Two dead birds were discovered at the Olympic equestrian venue in Hong Kong, and authorities were testing whether the animals were infected with the dangerous H5N1 bird flu virus. The birds were found last week, the head of equestrian preparation operations and media services said Monday. Hong Kong, which has struggled with the bird flu for years, suffered its biggest outbreak in 1997, when it killed six people. The Olympic equestrian events, to be held from August 9-21, were moved from Beijing to the former British colony because of a rash of equine diseases and substandard quarantine procedures on the mainland.

Source:

[http://www.tsn.ca/olympics/story/?id=244656&lid=sublink07&lpos=headlines_olympic
s](http://www.tsn.ca/olympics/story/?id=244656&lid=sublink07&lpos=headlines_olympic_s)

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Government Facilities Sector

34. *July 29, WZVN 7 Fort Myers* – (Florida) **Threat to blow up county building results in arrest.** In Florida, a man facing foreclosure on his home was arrested Monday for threatening to blow up various Collier County government buildings, and to shoot county employees if they entered his property to seize it, according to sheriff's reports. On July 25, a man showed up at the Collier County Government Center and demanded to speak with the county manager, reports said. The deputy county manager spoke to the suspect, who was upset because the county was foreclosing on his property. During the conversation, the suspect made several threats, including burning any buildings that might be on "his land."

Source: <http://www.abc-7.com/articles/readnews.asp?articleid=20684&z=2>

35. *July 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Study proposes revamping national security system.** In a report aimed at the next president, security specialists are proposing a vast overhaul of the U.S. security system, declaring it problem-plagued. The report, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press, said frequent feuding and jurisdictional disputes among Cabinet secretaries and other agency heads force the president to spend too much time settling internal fights. Time and money are wasted on duplicative and inefficient actions, slowing down government responses to crises, the report said. The study, mandated by Congress, was undertaken by the Project on National Security Reform. The research was conducted by more than 300 national security experts from think tanks, universities, federal agencies, law firms, and corporations. A final version with recommended reforms, including a proposal for new security legislation, is

expected to be issued in October.

Source: <http://govexec.com/dailyfed/0708/072908ap2.htm>

36. *July 29, SecurityFocus* – (National) **Federal agencies slow to deploy crypto.** Following several high-profile data breaches, U.S. government agencies have largely failed to roll out planned encryption deployments, leaving about 70 percent of their systems with unencrypted sensitive data, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) stated in a recent report. The report, highlighted in a statement released by the House Committee on Homeland Security on Monday, found that the lack of a specific requirement to encrypt sensitive data has led to spotty information security. The White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommended in 2006 that all agencies encrypt data on laptop computers and mobile devices. In 2007, the OMB made encryption for such devices a requirement. All major agencies have begun deploying encryption technology, but the GAO report recommends that the White House clarify rules on the types of sensitive data that need to be protected using encryption technology.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/brief/784>

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Emergency Services Sector

37. *July 30, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Local, federal agencies hold disaster drill.** More than 230 local and federal firefighters and bomb technicians participated Tuesday in an extensive drill involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The training exercise was designed to help federal and local emergency response crews work together while responding to a potentially catastrophic event. Tuesday's scenario began Monday night at Midvale City Hall, where a deranged man invaded the City Council meeting, shot the police chief, and then left two suspicious packages with himself and in his car that needed to be identified and rendered safe. The scenario Tuesday then switched to Rocky Mountain Raceway where firefighters and bomb technicians were called to investigate a series of on-going problems, with information from one situation leading to the next. Those scenarios included weapons of mass destruction being found. Members of the 85th WMD Civil Support Team, part of the Utah National Guard, along with members of the Nevada CST and U.S. Army North out of Texas also participated in the event.

Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,700246960,00.html>

38. *July 30, Associated Press* – (California) **Moderate Calif. quake a drill for the 'Big One'.** Tuesday's magnitude-5.4 earthquake rattled nerves in California, causing people to vow to step up their emergency preparations. The quake, which rocked the region from Los Angeles to San Diego, caused only limited damage and minor injuries, and served as a reminder of the seismic danger below sprawling freeways and subdivisions. The state Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento received scattered reports of minor infrastructure damage, including broken water mains and gas lines. To prepare for the "Big One," scientists and emergency planners in the fall will hold what is billed as the largest earthquake drill in the country. It will be based on a hypothetical magnitude-7.8 temblor. Earlier this year, scientists calculated that California faces a 99.7 percent chance of a magnitude-6.7 quake or larger in the next 30 years.

Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g-JQC5ESySZKfb7WpG_XRBRxNNYwD9282UFO0

39. *July 29, Homeland Security Today* – (District of Columbia) **Federal mass casualty preparedness program could be better funded.** Under the new \$1.69 billion Homeland Security Grant Program, almost \$40 million has been allotted for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), the longest running federal program supporting first responders. The program will now be expanded throughout the greater Washington, D.C. region. Created in 1996, “the purpose of [MMRS] is to support regionally integrated all-hazards mass casualty preparedness, emphasizing the WMD threat,” former MMRS National Program Manager said. The MMRS program “requires the participation of first responders, first receivers, public health, emergency management, law enforcement, and volunteer organizations,” he explained. Historically, he said, “while small in funding [\$30 million to \$50 million annually in recent years], and lacking the visibility and public relations clout of related DHHS/CDC programs, it’s concept, structure, and partnerships are an essential element of overall mass casualty preparedness.”

Source:

http://hstoday.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4455&Itemid=149

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Information Technology

40. *July 30, IDG News Service* – (International) **Hotels to spy on Olympics guests, says U.S. senator.** A Kansas senator reiterated accusations Tuesday that China is forcing foreign-owned hotels to install electronic eavesdropping equipment ahead of next month’s Olympics. The network monitoring equipment, which the senator claims includes both hardware and software, will allow the country’s Public Security Bureau to monitor the Internet activities of guests and collate records of what they do online. He first made these accusations in early May, without citing the names of any of the hotel chains allegedly involved. He said that he now has copies of translations of the original order, which “alludes to harsh punishment for failure to comply with the order,” a statement said. “The hotels have asked us to preserve their anonymity; in order to protect their safety, and in return for their courage in coming forward, I cannot divulge their identities.... On the other hand, these hotel chains have invested millions of dollars in their Chinese properties, and while they wish to find a way to reverse this order, if they are specifically identified, they could face severe retaliation...” he said. The senator’s accusations book-end allegations made in June by two U.S. Congressmen that China-based hackers had attacked computers in their offices, including ones that may have contained information on Chinese dissidents.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111043&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

41. *July 29, Computerworld* – (International) **DNS patches cause problems, developers admit.** Patches released earlier this month to quash a critical bug in the Domain Name

System (DNS) have slowed servers running Berkeley Internet Name Domain (BIND), the Internet's most popular DNS software, and crippled some systems using Windows Server. The head of the Internet Systems Consortium (ISC), the group responsible for the BIND software, acknowledged that there were problems with the July 8 fix that was rolled out as part of a multivendor update meant to patch a cache poisoning flaw discovered months ago. "During the development cycle, we became aware of a potential performance issue on high-traffic recursive servers, defined as those seeing a query volume of greater than 10,000/queries per second," he said in a message posted Monday afternoon to a BIND mailing list. "Given the limited time frame and associated risks, we chose to finish the patches ASAP and accelerate our work on the next point releases that would address the high-volume server performance concerns." "Our immediate goal was to make patches publicly available as soon as possible," he explained. Versions of the second update, which will be designated P2 when they are unveiled, are currently available in beta form for BIND 9.4.3 and BIND 9.5.1.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111001&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

42. *July 29, PCWorld* – (International) **New browsers fight the malware scourge.** The latest browsers are fighting back against the never-ending assault from online crooks who want to sneak malware infections through customers' browser and onto their PC. Firefox 3, Opera 9.5, and, soon, Internet Explorer 8 add new security features that block known malware sites. Hackers slip nearly invisible code onto a vulnerable but benign Web site, forcing it to become an unwitting foot soldier in the malware war. A successful hijacking in July of a site for Sony PlayStation games demonstrates that sites both large and small can fall victim to this tactic. "The bad guys are putting a lot of effort into mass hacking," says the chief research officer of antivirus maker AVG Technologies. "They routinely hack 20,000 to 40,000 sites in a day" with automated tools, he says. The new features in the latest browsers work much as existing antiphishing filters do. In Firefox 2, Mozilla uses Google's blacklist of known phishing sites. If people mistakenly click a link to a URL on that list, they will see a warning instead of the site. Firefox 3 also blocks the display of pages on Google's list of known malware sites. Firefox 3 grabs the most recent blacklist about every 30 minutes, according to a spokesperson, and checks the sites people visit against that local list. Firefox 2 has an option to always check sites you visit against Google's online list so as to catch the very latest entries, but Firefox 3 provides no such option.

Source:

http://www.pcworld.com/article/149040/new_browsers_fight_the_malware_scurge.html

43. *July 29, Washington Post Blog* – (International) **Three quarters of malicious web sites are hacked.** Three-quarters of all Web sites that try to foist malicious software on visitors are legitimate sites that have been hacked, according to a report released Tuesday by Websense, an online security company that scans more than 40 million Web sites hourly for signs that they may have been compromised by hackers. Most of these compromised sites are social networking communities and some of the Internet's most

popular destinations. The report found that 60 percent of the top 100 most popular sites this year have either hosted malware or forwarded visitors to malicious sites. The company also says that nine out of 10 of those compromised sites were social networking or Web search sites. Typically, the hacked sites are advertised through junk e-mail. According to Websense, nearly 30 percent of those links lead to sites that try to plant software which steals passwords and other sensitive data from victims. The remainders of the spam links attempt to install software that lets attackers control the systems from afar, and/or install additional software without the owner's knowledge. The findings mirror other recent research. In May, Web site vulnerability scanning company ScanSafe found that 68 percent of Web-based malware was pushed out via compromised Web sites.

Source:

http://blog.washingtonpost.com/securityfix/2008/07/75_percent_of_malicious_web_si_1.html?nav=rss_blog

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

44. *July 29, Long Beach Press Telegram* – (California) **Post-quake traffic clogs cell-phone lines.** Many cell phone users were not able to make calls during and immediately after Tuesday's earthquake in California as a result of high call volumes, several phone companies said. Three of the largest wireless companies, AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon, all reported high call volumes during and immediately after the earthquake. An AT&T spokesman said in a statement that the company saw network congestion on both land-line and wireless networks, which is common after an earthquake. According to the statement, network congestion occurs when too many people are trying to use the network at the same time. The public relations spokesman for Verizon Wireless said its call volume was 40 percent higher than projected for the earthquake, adding that with extremely high call volumes, it becomes necessary for phone companies to start blocking calls. Making up the volume are one-time callers and those who call multiple times trying to get through.

Source: http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_10037454

45. *July 29, Minneapolis Star-Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Telecom sues Monticello over city's plan to build its own high-speed network.** A failure to communicate between Monticello, Minnesota, and TDS Telecom, its chief phone and cable provider, is threatening to short-circuit plans to make the city one of the most wired communities in the nation. Both Monticello and TDS Telecom are constructing multi-million dollar

fiber-optic networks that will directly connect to every home, office, and business in the city. When the networks come online in the next year or so, they would be among only about 45 in the country that provides such connectivity. But Monticello – a city of about 11,000 in northern Wright County – also may be the only locale where the public and private sectors are competing so directly for paying customers. The acrimony from such direct competition has led to the filing of what may become a precedent-setting lawsuit by TDS questioning whether municipalities can use revenue bonds to create fiber-optic networks. Monticello – which maintains that the fiber-optic network is a public convenience and thus eligible for revenue bond financing – countersued to have the case dismissed. The Wright County District Judge, who took the matter under advisement last month following a hearing, could rule in the case as early as next week.

Source:

http://www.startribune.com/local/west/26082979.html?location_refer=Homepage:highlightModules:5

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Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to report

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

46. *July 29, PressZoom* – (Virginia) **Gypsy moth defoliation increases 46 percent in Virginia.** Officials with the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) say that the gypsy moth defoliated 112,340 acres of forest across Virginia. The defoliation increased of almost 39,000 acres over last year's total. Nearly 70,000 acres of defoliation occurred across the George Washington-Jefferson National Forest close to the West Virginia state line. An additional 11,750 acres affected Shenandoah National Park. The most heavily impacted area was the GW National Forest in Augusta County extending into southern Rockingham County.

Source: http://presszoom.com/story_145459.html

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Dams Sector

47. *July 29, iBerkshires.com* – (Massachusetts) **Bond bill has \$2.5M for deteriorating Windsor Dam.** In Massachusetts, the state House approved a \$1.6 billion environmental bond bill on Tuesday that includes a \$2.5 million appropriation for the reconstruction of the Dalton Fire and Water District's Windsor Reservoir Dam. The reservoir is the primary water source for Dalton, but the dam was badly damaged during severe rainstorms in October 2005 and the Water District has been unable to use the reservoir. The dam and reservoir have been the focus of a multiphase restoration project. The dam has been deemed structurally unsafe by the Department of Conservation and Recreation,

which oversees the state's dams.

Source: <http://www.iberkshires.com/story/27906/Bond-Bill-Has-2.5M-for-Deteriorating-Windsor-Dam.html>

48. *July 29, Associated Press* – (Iowa) **Cedar Rapids looks at new floodplain map.** A new floodplain map under development for Cedar Rapids, Iowa, shows a levee on the Cedar River's west bank was too low to protect large sections of the city from a 100-year flood. That is despite the fact that the properties were not previously considered to be part of the 100-year flood plain. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been working on a new floodplain map since before flooding soaked most of downtown Cedar Rapids. The Cedar Rapids Public Works director says the city's old 100-year-flood plain map was inaccurate because it was based on imprecise information. It is unclear if the map will change more as officials consider last month's floods.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-ia-cedarrapidsfloodp,0,3214984.story>

49. *July 29, KHQA 7 Keokuk* – (Missouri) **Environmental Impact minimal for new lock and dam.** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, hosted two public meetings about the proposed design of a new lock at Lock and Dam 22, about ten miles south of Hannibal, Missouri. Currently the lock at Lock and Dam 22 is 600 feet long; proposed construction to the lock will double its size to 1,200 feet. Over the last several years, barge traffic through Lock and Dam 22 has increased and there is a need for the larger lock. The increased size of the lock will allow barges to pass through more quickly.

Source: http://www.khqa.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=166747

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